

# TELEGRAM

OUTGOING

Foreign Service of the  
United States of America

Pol 23-8 (AMB)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Charge:

Classification

Control:

FILE COPY

Date: September 16, 1969

ACTION: AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO

INFO: AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

SAO PAULO 911

SUBJECT: Further Reaction Ambassador's Kidnapping

Ref: Sao Paulo's 903

1. We note growing skepticism in São Paulo political and journalistic circles about GOB claims that it making progress in identifying or arresting Ambassador's kidnappers.
2. When asked why they doubt GOB claims, people cite conflicting stories which police and military authorities have given press concerning case. Others simply reply they do not trust GOB to tell truth, i.e., it has a credibility gap.
3. Another reason cited by some observers as giving them cause to doubt GOB claims of progress is observable tendency for right-wing elements to blame U.S. for kidnapping. As reported reftel some have accused Ambassador of being negligent about his security. Hardline Fourth Air Zone Commander, Brigadier José da Silva Vaz, reportedly

Drafted by: POL:JDBlacken/dks  
September 16, 1969

Approving Officer: EXEC:WLWight, Jr.

Concurrence: USIS:Dendsley  
USIS:LFlower (in draft)

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DECLASSIFIED

Authority NW 43265  
By mp/Amw, NARA, Date 29 May 2015

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told Sao Paulo City Council President José Maria Marin on September 14 that CIA had engineered kidnapping. Congen and USIS officers had already heard this accusation but had not taken it seriously. However, reoccurrence of same theme from different sources has lent seriousness to charge. Reasons given to support view that U.S. ordered kidnapping have been varied. One version is that U.S. wanted demoralize GOB to make it more amenable U.S. pressures on such matters as soluble coffee, etc. Another version was that U.S. was trying ingratiate itself with student left; therefore, we obtained release of students.

4. Congen sources interpret right-wing military charges against U.S. as sure sign that authorities are not making good progress in solving case. Therefore, they venting frustration by blaming U.S. Sources refer to parallel situation last year when police themselves were responsible for stories that Captain Charles Chandler had been CIA agent.

5. GP-4.

CORRIGAN

Drafted by:

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